

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A network tunneling method, comprising:
 providing a client linked to a network;
 simulating an operation of a modem in the client with respect to a
portable device; and
 tunneling a network access by the portable device from the client
10 to a network portal.
2. The network tunneling method of claim 1, wherein the step of
tunneling the network access by the portable device from the client to the
network portal further comprises tunneling the network access beyond a
15 protected side of a firewall where the client is located on the protected side of
the firewall.
3. The network tunneling method of claim 1, wherein the step of
tunneling the network access by the portable device from the client to the
20 network portal further comprises obtaining a network address of the network
portal.
4. The network tunneling method of claim 3, wherein the step of
obtaining the network portal address of the network portal associated with the
25 portable device further comprises:
 obtaining a telephone number from the portable device that is
employed to access the network portal through a telecommunications network;
and
 querying a uniform resource locator (URL) mapper for the network
30 portal address that is associated with the telephone number.

5. The network tunneling method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a channel between the client and the network portal.

6. The network tunneling method of claim 5, further comprising
5 accessing a mobile application maintained at the network portal.

7. The network tunneling method of claim 5, further comprising accessing a network page from a server coupled to the network through the network portal.

8. A program embodied in a computer readable medium that provides network access tunneling, comprising:
code that simulates an operation of a modem in a client with respect to a portable device; and
15 code that tunnels a network access by the portable device from the client to a network portal through a firewall between the client and the network portal.

9. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim
20 8, wherein the code that tunnels the network access by the portable device from the client to the network portal through the firewall between the client and the network portal further comprises code that obtains a network address of the network portal.

10. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim
25 9, wherein the code that obtains the network address of the network portal further comprises:

code that obtains a telephone number from the portable device that is employed to access the network portal through a telecommunications
30 network; and

code that queries a uniform resource locator (URL) mapper for the network portal address that is associated with the telephone number.

11. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the code that tunnels the network access by the portable device from the client to the network portal through the firewall between the client and the network portal further comprises code that establishes a channel between the client and the network portal.

12. A network tunneling system, comprising:
means for simulating an operation of a modem in a client with respect to a portable device; and
means for tunneling a network access by the portable device from the client to a network portal through a firewall between the client and the network portal.

13. The network tunneling method of claim 12, wherein the means for tunneling the network access by the portable device from the client to the network portal through the firewall between the client and the network portal further comprises means for obtaining a network address of the network portal.

14. The network tunneling method of claim 13, wherein the means for obtaining the network address of the network portal further comprises:
means for obtaining a telephone number from the portable device that is employed to access the network portal through a telecommunications network; and
means for querying a uniform resource locator (URL) mapper for the network portal address that is associated with the telephone number.

15. A network tunneling system, comprising:
a client with a processor circuit having a processor and a memory;
a local data communications portal; and
network tunneling logic stored on the memory and executable by the processor, the network tunneling logic comprising:

logic that simulates an operation of a modem in the client with respect to a portable device to establish a data communications link with the portable device through the local data communications portal; and

5 logic that tunnels a network access by the portable device from the client to a network portal through a firewall between the client and the network portal.

10 16. The network tunneling system of claim 15, wherein the logic that tunnels the network access by the portable device from the client to the network portal through the firewall between the client and the network portal further comprises logic that obtains a network address of the network portal.

15 17. The network tunneling system of claim 16, wherein the logic that obtains the network address of the network portal further comprises:

logic that obtains a telephone number from the portable device that is employed to access the network portal through a telecommunications network; and

20 logic that queries a uniform resource locator (URL) mapper for the network portal address that is associated with the telephone number.

25 18. The network tunneling system of claim 15, wherein the logic that tunnels the network access by the portable device from the client to the network portal through the firewall between the client and the network portal further comprises logic that establishes a channel between the client and the network portal.